

ENERGY AND COMMERCE

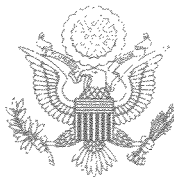
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U.S. House of Representatives
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GEORGE RADANOVICH

19TH DISTRICT, CALIFORNIA

September 22, 2009

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The Honorable Dianne Feinstein
U.S. Senate
331 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Feinstein:

I am writing to express my full support for Senator Jim DeMint's amendment to H.R. 2996, which prohibits the Secretary of the Interior from using funds to restrict, reduce, or reallocate water as determined in the Fish and Wildlife Biological Opinion of December 15, 2008 and the National Marine Fisheries Service Biological Opinion of June 4, 2009.

As you personally witnessed during your August visit to the San Joaquin Valley, the actions prescribed in the biological opinions are devastating rural communities in the Valley and destroying what was once a thriving agricultural region. This amendment is an immediate solution to the regulatory drought brought on by these biological opinions. Both biological opinions are heavily critiqued and litigated by water districts and agricultural organizations for not using the highest quality information, failing to meet federal guidelines, and issuing recommendations that are conflicting and not supported by data in the biological opinions.

As California's regulatory drought gains national attention, enactment of this amendment will bring relief to the people and communities suffering from 40 percent unemployment levels, food lines, and hundreds of thousands of acres of fallowed land. Unfortunately interim projects, such as Two Gates, which could bring relief from the pending restrictions in the biological opinions, will not be complete until 2010. This leaves the San Joaquin Valley again at the mercy of the biological opinions for another year.

I strongly urge you to support this amendment to H.R. 2996 offered by Senator DeMint to prohibit funds from being used to restrict, reduce, or reallocate water away from the San Joaquin Valley. This amendment would allow a small reprieve to the economic and agricultural destruction that the San Joaquin Valley has been in the midst of for the past 12 months.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "George Radanovich". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "George" being particularly prominent.

George Radanovich
Member of Congress